

## APPENDIX

### 1. An injection moulding process comprising:

#### A) Melting a mixture comprising

- a) a (meth)acrylate copolymer comprising from 40 to 100% by weight of free-radical-polymerized C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl esters of acrylic or methacrylic acid and from 0 to 60% by weight of (meth)acrylate monomers having an anionic group in the alkyl radical, and
- b) from 0.1 to 3% by weight of a release agent,  
and, optionally,
- c) from 0 to 50% by weight of a drier,
- d) from 0 to 30% by weight of a plasticizer,
- e) from 0 to 100% by weight of additives or auxiliaries,
- f) from 0 to 100% by weight of an active pharmaceutical ingredient,
- g) from 0 to 20% by weight of another polymer or copolymer,

wherein the amounts given for components b) to g) are based on the (meth)acrylate copolymer a), and wherein

the mixture prior to melting has a content of more than 0.5% by weight of low-boiling constituents with vapour pressure of at least 1.9 bar at 120 °C,

B) Devolatilizing the mixture in the thermoplastic state at a temperature of at least 120 °C, thereby lowering to not more than 0.5% by weight the content of the low-boiling constituents with vapour pressure of at least 1.9 bar at 120 °C,

C) Injecting the molten and devolatilized mixture into the mould cavity of an injection mould, the temperature of the mould cavity being below the glass transition temperature of the (meth)acrylate copolymer by at least 10 °C, cooling the molten mixture, and removing the resultant moulding from the mould.

2. The process according to Claim 1, wherein the devolatilizing step B) is carried out by extrusion drying by an extruder with a devolatilizing section, or by an injection moulding plant with a vent in the injection moulding cylinder upstream of the injection mould.

3. The process according to Claim 1, wherein the (meth)acrylate copolymer comprises, as (meth)acrylate monomer having an anionic group in the alkyl radical, from 1 to 50% by weight of methacrylic acid.

4. The process according to Claim 1, wherein the mixture comprises from 0.5 to 25% by weight of plasticizer.

5. An injection moulding produced by a process according to Claim 1.

6. The moulding according to Claim 5, wherein the impact strength to ISO 179 is at least 5 kJ/m<sup>2</sup>.

7. The moulding according to Claim 5, wherein the moulding comprises a capsule, part of a capsule, or part of a dosage unit.

8. The moulding according to Claim 5, wherein the moulding comprises an active pharmaceutical ingredient.

10. A method of filling the moulding according to Claim 5, comprising inserting an active pharmaceutical ingredient therein.

Application No. 09/913,720  
Reply to Office Action of August 26, 2003

11. The process according to Claim 1, wherein the release agent is from 0.2 to 1% by weight.